

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending in the present application.

The Examiner has required election in the present application between:

Species I, claim 7, directed to a front portion having a rear edge that is substantially straight;

Species II, claim 8, directed to a front portion having a rear edge that is curved convexly toward the club face; and

Species III, claim 9, directed to a front portion having a rear edge that is curved concavely toward the club face.

For the purpose of examination of the present application, Applicants elect Species II, claim 8.

This election is made with the understanding that, should the elected species be found free of the prior art, the Examiner will proceed to examine the remaining species with an eye toward determining if a generic claim is allowable.

The Examiner correctly notes that claim 1 is generic and encompasses the elected species. Claims 2-6 and 10-14 are also generic with respect to the elected species and so encompass it.

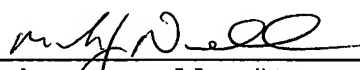
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Mark J. Nuell (Reg. No. 36,623) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview

in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 
Mark J. Nuell, #36,623

DRN/mua
0229-0765P

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000